



**Budget**

We won't know anything more than what was in the Governor's budget until the middle of April when the first draft of the appropriations act is released by the Appropriations Committee. Human service providers have been very active in lobbying for an across-the-board Cost of Living Increase which was not included in the Governor's budget.

FY07 Expenditures (incurred) for contracted programs

	<i>Net invoices (insurance subtracted)</i>	<i>Includes Supplemental payments of:</i>	<i>Insurance Revenue</i>
July	\$2,182,674	\$111,864	\$177,201
August	\$2,190,517	\$133,491	\$255,640
September	\$2,114,342	\$127,886	\$248,667
October	\$2,242,064	\$168,290	\$314,453
November	\$2,295,000	\$157,790	\$234,093
December	\$2,190,831	\$113,670	\$240,572
January	\$2,515,745	\$263,128	\$239,715
February	\$2,469,534	\$204,136	\$187,184

Parent Fees-FY07

	<i>Gross</i>	<i>Net (collection costs and credit card fees subtracted)</i>	
July	\$62,351	\$55,598	
August	\$57,415	\$50,737	
September	\$54,860	\$48,050	
October	\$68,900	\$61,908	
November	\$51,985	\$44,983	
December	\$64,835	\$57,885	
January	\$61,375	\$54,456	
February	\$52,165	\$45,193	
March	\$71,733	\$64,811	\$483,621

Enrollment – FY06- FY07

	<b>All Programs</b>		
	<u>Data from data system</u>		<u>Data from invoices</u>
	<i>New Referrals</i>	<i>Eligible Children</i>	<i>Children Served</i>
<b>July, 2005</b>	533	4,744	4,206
August	615	4,660	4,152
September	665	4,521	4,136
October	603	4,536	4,050
November	643	4,476	4,015
December	538	4,409	3,875
January	736	4,382	3,914
February	612	4,338	3,857
March	665	4,426	3,953
April	578	4,430	3,936
May	619	4,457	3,999
June	742	4,501	4,006
<b>July, 2006</b>	614	4,533	4,058
August	688	4,566	4,129
September	683	4,499	3,968
October	684	4,540	4,010
November	696	4,484	3,985
December	555	4,462	3,932
January	810	4,504	3,999
February	704	4,493	3,996
March	859	4,570	Not yet Available

The service and support office has been monitoring the names of children waiting for assignment to a program for initial evaluation daily. As of April 3, 2007:

<b>Region</b>	<b>Number pending assignment to programs</b>	<b>Greatest lapse of time from call to Infoline</b>	<b>Town</b>
North	192	42 days	Granby
South	26	16 days	Groton
West	61	27 days	Norwalk, Darien

A new RFP was issued for several of the towns in the Northern part of the state. The bidder's conference will be held April 11<sup>th</sup>. Proposals are due May 11.

**Personnel Updates**

We will not be refilling the research analyst position for at least the next year.

**2007 Legislation (JF = joint favorable)**

Bill 1220 – Birth to Three bill. Adds eligibility for children at environmental risk of delay. JF'd from Public Health. Currently with the Office of Legislative Research and the Office of Fiscal Analysis for review.

Bill 6723 – lead prevention bill. One section would require the local health authority to advise families of children with lead levels of 20 or more of their “potential eligibility for Birth to Three.” JF’d out of the Public Health committee. Currently with the Office of Legislative Research and the Office of Fiscal Analysis for review.

Bill 683 – lead prevention bill. One section would require Birth to Three to track the progress of children with blood lead levels in excess of 10 and report on their performance and the effectiveness of early intervention. JF’d out of Public Health. Died in the Education Committee.

Bill 7144 – establishes a “Board of Education and Services for Citizens with Autism Spectrum Disorders” with an executive director and a Board that would “annually make recommendations to the General Assembly concerning the services available to persons with autism spectrum disorders, including, but not limited to, funding required to provide early intervention, educational, and vocational services, the availability of vocational rehabilitation for such persons and any other matter that uniquely affects persons with autism spectrum disorders.” This bill was JF’d out of the Public Health Committee with much broader language that would have had this agency provide “autism-specific early intervention (AEI)” and other direct educational and vocational services. It then went to the Governmental Administration and Elections committee and was JF’d from there with the current substitute language. This entity would be attached to DMR for “administrative purposes only”, similar to the Board of Education and Services for the Blind and the Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired.

### **Tenth anniversary celebration**

We hope that all ICC members can join us at the Legislative Office Building atrium from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM on Thursday April 12<sup>th</sup>. We will have refreshments suitable for children and adults, some speeches from 5:30 – 6:00, a face-painter for all of the children, and a fabulous cake. Music will be from a jazz trio. We will be displaying a banner for each current Birth to Three program and have plaques to give the programs that have been with us for all ten years. We hope that all ICC members and program directors can join us as well as legislators, providers and families.

### **IDEA**

#### Annual Performance Report – due Feb. 1, 2007

No feedback yet on our annual performance report (OSEP has until the end of May to respond). Based on this information, by July 1, OSEP will be making “determinations” about how well each state is implementing IDEA requirements. The requirement is that states use the same four categories to make determinations about each local early intervention program “in a timely manner” following the submission of the APR data.

#### Federal Application – due April 20, 2007

The federal Part C allocation for Connecticut is down \$93,000 from last year, while the bottom line of the total allocation stayed the same due to a continuing resolution.

We have received two official comments so far on the changes to our evaluation procedure. Drs Milanese and Greenstein have made recommendations for updating the diagnosed condition list and Rita Esposito has proposed broadening the use of clinical opinion to make children eligible.

## Annual Performance Report – due Feb. 1, 2008

We will begin distributing the family surveys this month. The surveys will be given to the programs to be handed by the service coordinator to any family whose child has been enrolled for six months or more. The data from these surveys will be used to report on the Family Outcomes section of the next annual performance report.

### **Dispute Resolution Activity FY07**

#### *Complaints (No new activity since the last meeting)*

One formal written complaint was received at the beginning of August. The complaint alleges that the Early Connections North program improperly obtained medical information. Even though the parent had signed consent. No IDEA or FERPA violation was substantiated.

One formal written complaint was received at the beginning of November. The complaint was that Rehabilitation Associates proposed to reduce services and the parents disagreed with the reduction. The complaint response directed Rehabilitation Associates to provide make-up hours. The issue of the service reduction went to a hearing.

One formal written complaint was received at the end of November. The complaint alleges that Early Connections South is not addressing the oral/motor needs of the child. The complaint response directed make-up hours and an IFSP review meeting.

*Mediations* – no mediations this fiscal year so far

#### *Hearings*

A due process hearing was held on February 27, February 28, and March 5, 2007. The program involved was Rehabilitation Associates (although the child had transferred from Reachout following a mediation in 2006) and the issue was over type and quantity of services. Attorney Larry Berliner represented the parents. Attorney Emily Melendez represented the state. The hearing officer's decision requires Rehabilitation Associates to provide an OT, PT, and Developmental Therapist 2X/week, Speech 5X/week, an ABA program through an outside vendor at a frequency yet to be determined, and a feeding and oral/motor consult once/month. In addition, the parents will be reimbursed for all outside therapies and assistive technology that they have purchased over the past two years while the child was enrolled at Reachout and Rehabilitation Associates..

### **Quality Assurance**

The revised Biennial Performance Report (BPR) measures will be posted on the shared drive by the end of April for providers to review. In late May/early June there will be a training session on the performance dashboard and revised BPR data system. The revised Quality Assurance manual will be available for that session. About half of the programs will be submitting their next BPR by September 15, 2007.

Anna Gorski is still tracking correction of identified non-compliance for the annual performance report due February, 2008.

Focused Monitoring FY07 upcoming on-site visits:

STAR Rubino in the area of service delivery  
End of April, beginning of May

Reachout in the area of Transition

May 28-June 1

Education Connection in the area of Child Find  
June 25-29

CREC Soundbridge in the area of Child Find  
Yet to be scheduled